GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1910
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006
INDIAN HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3447, November 2004, has pointed out that Indian Health Delivery System fails because it does not focus on the basics of public health; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3447 on "India's Public Health System − How well does it function at the national level?" has brought out that the strengths of the system lie in having the capacity to carry out most of the public health functions. The paper has mentioned certain weaknesses which include inter-alia overlooking some fundamental public health functions such as public health regulations and their enforcement, management flaws hindering effective use of resources including inadequate focus on evaluation, assuring quality of services etc. The paper also mentions the need for the Central Government to work much more closely with other key actors, especially with sub-national Governments, as well as with the private sector with communities and concludes with some reassessment of priorities and better management practices, health outcomes could be substantially improved.